

CELEBRATE THE FAMILY OF GOD

Objective:

To provide a retreat experience for families which addresses the celebration of individual family members, the family as a whole and the family as a part of the family of God.

Retreat Overview:

"Celebrating the Family Of God" is led by Christian singer, songwriter and nationally known retreat leader, Sam Kauffman – a roster artist with NEAG Music who has taught parenting classes. This retreat can be done in one, two or three days.

Session One focuses on the ways each family member is uniquely crafted as a reflection of God - unique as a snowflake. Session Two looks at the ways God calls us to discover and blend our gifts like snowflakes creating a beautiful winter scene. Session Three calls us to share our gifts as church doing God's work in the world.

This retreat uses many different techniques including small and large group sharing, music, simple projects, ribbon weavings, personal testimony and stories. Families are provided opportunities to pray together, share and sing. Families or groups of families are encouraged to develop community service projects.

Retreat Overview:

Session One:

Introductions

1. Music
2. Are You an Onion or a Snowflake?

Children of the Lord

1. Story - A Child in Los Angeles Teaches Us a Lesson
God Just Loves That Face
Song: Children of the Father God

Uniquely Crafted

1. Like a Snowflake - No One Just Like Me
2. What Makes Up Special and Unique
 - a. Poem - The Snowflake
 - b. Being Unique
 - c. Exercise

Recognizing Our Uniqueness

God Planted a Treasure

1. The Onion
The Story of David and Samuel
Song: Shepherd, King and Carpenter
Life Changing Gifts
2. Discovering Our Gifts
Bonnie's Story
What Do People See - What Don't People
See?
Exercise: What I Wish You Knew About Me?
3. Family Discussion
How Do Your Gifts Change Your Life?

Retreat Prayer Partners and Closing

1. Picking Prayer Partners
2. Home Project
Making Snowflakes
3. Praying and Singing Together

Session Two

Blending Our Gifts

Sharing Our Family Snowflakes

1. Small or Large Group Sharing

It Takes More Than One Snowflake

1. Picture
2. Project
: Family Snowflake Mobiles

Responding to Our Gifts

1. Choice
2. Change
3. Relationship
The Body of Christ
Song: Quodlibet

Praying and Singing Together

Session Three:

We Are Church

1. **The Work of Our Hands**
Story: The Statue
I Have No Hands But Yours
Song: Sharing Christ
Life Weavings
Project: Ribbon Weavings
Woven Together as the Family of God
2. **We Are Church**
Pantomime With Families
Development of Family Service Projects
New Prayer Partners
3. **A Family Blessing**

Blessing Circles